

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cover for a human ear, [disposable protection device for a portion of an individual's body] the cover comprising:

a [cover] layer of flexible material [for partially encompassing said body portion] sized and shaped to completely cover the external portions of the ear; and

a means for securing the layer of flexible material over the external portions of the ear, the means comprising an elastic portion and an adhesive portion both coupled to the layer of flexible material, [a first portion of said cover layer; and an adhesive portion coupled to a second portion of said cover layer]

wherein when the cover is positioned over the external portions of the ear, the elastic portion is positioned on the flexible material to secure the cover around the pinna of the ear and the adhesive portion is positioned on the flexible material to secure the cover at the tragal area of the ear.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim 1 wherein said [cover] layer of flexible material is constructed of a water-repellant material.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim 2 wherein said water-repellant material is selected from the group consisting of polymers and fabrics.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim 1 wherein said elastic portion contains an elastic material.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim 4 wherein said elastic material is selected from the group consisting of nylon, cotton, lycra, and elastic polymers.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim [1] 4 wherein said elastic material is coupled to the layer of flexible material [said first portion] by an adhesive.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim [1] 4 wherein said elastic material is coupled to the layer of flexible material [said first portion] by a heat weld.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim [1] 4 wherein said elastic material is coupled to the layer of flexible material [said first portion] by a radio frequency weld.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim 1 wherein said adhesive portion contains an adhesive material.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim [1] 9 wherein said adhesive material is coupled to the layer of flexible material [said second portion] by an adhesive.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim [1] 9 wherein said adhesive material is coupled to the layer of flexible material [said second portion] by a heat weld.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The [disposable protection device] cover of claim [1] 9 wherein said adhesive material is coupled to the layer of flexible material [said second portion] by a radio frequency weld.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for [protecting a portion of an individual's body from exposure to environmental media] covering a human ear, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a layer of flexible material sized and shaped to completely cover the external portions of the ear and a means for securing the layer of flexible material over the external portions of the ear, the means comprising an elastic portion and an adhesive portion both coupled to the layer of flexible material [cover layer for partially encompassing a body portion];

[coupling an] positioning the elastic portion on the flexible material to secure the cover around the pinna of the ear [to a first portion of said cover layer]; and

[coupling an] positioning the adhesive portion on the flexible material to secure the cover at the tragal area of the ear [to a second portion of said cover layer].

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

positioning said [cover] layer of flexible material over the external portions of the ear [said body portion]

[securing said elastic portion adjacent to said body portion]; and

adhering said adhesive portion to the tragal area of the ear or the facial tissue adjacent to the tragal area [said individual],

wherein the cover completely covers the external auditory canal of the ear.